AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 21-31 through page 7, lines 1-18 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring back to FIG. 5 and to FIGS. 7A and 7B, warping control points are computed based upon the vertical distribution of halftone dots in density map 74 as follows (step 100). A search window 102 is centered around a pixel 104 of density map 74. In one embodiment, search window 102 encompasses a vertical array of pixels that is 1 pixel wide and 2b + 1 pixels long, where b is an integer. In the present embodiment, search window 102 encompasses a 1 x 11 pixel array (i.e., b = 5). The spacings between the halftone dots within search window 102 and pixel 104 are summed to obtain a warping displacement value for the location of pixel 104. Thus, the warping displacement value (d) for the location of pixel 104 may be computed as follows:

$$d = (-5) + (-3) + (-1) + 3 + 4 = -2 \qquad (1)$$

which corresponds to a vertical displacement of two pixel locations above pixel 104. Search window 102 is scanned across density map 74 to obtain a set of warping displacement values corresponding to a set of lattice pixel locations. In particular, warping displacement values preferably are computed for lattice pixels located at the intersections of a series of space apart horizontal scan lines and a series of spaced apart vertical lines. As used herein, the term "lattice pixel location" refers to the pixel locations at the intersections of the horizontal and vertical scan lines. Search window 102 preferably is scanned across density map 74 along horizontal scan lines in non-overlapping scan zones. For example, in the present embodiment, adjacent scan lines of window 102 are spaced apart by ten (i.e., 2 b) pixels, resulting in a total of fifty-three scan lines (i.e., 512/10 = 51.2 plus two boundary scan lines). In other embodiments, the number and, consequently, the spacing between horizontal scan lines may be different. The spacing between the vertical scan lines also may vary. In the present embodiment, the vertical scan lines are spaced apart by thirty pixels, resulting in nineteen vertical scan lines (i.e., 5 12/30 = 17.1 plus two boundary scan lines). A set of warping control points is generated by displacing the lattice pixel locations in accordance with their corresponding warping displacement values.